

Initiative 13

Capacity Building of Teachers for Using Digital Resources

Ms. Mitali Borah

Sarupathar Higher Secondary School

Sarupathar, Golaghat, Assam

shsecondaryschool1956@gmail.com

The School Context

Sarupathar Higher Secondary School is a co-educational school located in the South block of the Golaghat district of Assam. It is situated in an urban area. It is managed by the Department of Education.

Challenges Faced due to School Closure

The school could not offer any kind of in-campus services, to cope with a new learning system that is very much new to all groups like teachers, learners, guardians, civil people, etc. It was a hard task to allocate everything on one platform. It was hard to transform a traditional system of classroom situations into online learning. Health and well-being are more important than education. So making the students aware of the danger of Corona was also a challenge. Bringing the whole classroom and school to every student's house was not an easy job for a school in a comparatively underdeveloped locality. Since most of the students (almost 90%) were from underprivileged sections and scattered in remote areas, they did not have smartphones for online learning, and reaching out to them was almost impossible. Getting feedback about the progress of the students and the success of the teaching was not easier. Issues were also faced in communicating among all students, issues due to poor network conditions and limited android mobiles due to poor family background.

Innovative Leadership Practices for Mitigating Learning Gaps

School heads and teachers launched a different online mode of learning through Google meet, zoom apps with the help of teachers to mitigate the learning gaps due to school closure. The training was given to every teacher about online or digital learning systems so that any further problems will not arise. Phone numbers and WhatsApp numbers of students were collected and updated within a short timeframe and those were listed categorically and systematically. IT cell was formed with five digitally skilled teachers to monitor and update the whole system all the time; these helplines were available all the time to help to solve the problems of students. Study materials including notes and question answers were dropped in a common drop box for students in different remote areas with the help of panchayat members. Groups of students were made under the monitoring of the teacher. Online classes were organized according to class issues and weekly reports were collected for every class of every subject.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDA3EHWV M&list=PLSiPjXQ11pfac7VJn9ya1 JxSjbU p zQ&index=44>

Collaboration with Community and Parents to Ensure Student Learning

Stakeholders including SMC members, parents, panchayat members, etc. with this new system were involved so that it would be smooth going. The school organized guardians meetings in Google meet regularly so that they were able to know about their children's status. Guardians of students used to bring copies to school for checking by maintaining COVID protocols. Since this institution is the main institution of the town it was sanitized twice a month noticing the health and hygiene of the locality. Regular contact was made with parents and online meetings and awareness programs were conducted with parents, community members, SMDC members, etc.

Way Forward

With some familiarity with this pandemic situation and experience in how to fight the situation, the school staffs are ready to face any unpredictable situation with multiple instruments. Online and offline teaching-learning is very much undergoing action to date. The staff organized a completely digital function system so that we can run our office as well as the whole mechanism from home. Moreover, since the institution was a COVID quarantine center it is equipped with different health and hygienic mechanisms to help the entire community. They organized multiple substitute systems to help those underprivileged students who could not attend the online learning process due to a lack of smartphones. Students, community members, etc. were made aware of the COVID protocol and vaccinations. Students were informed about the Shagun portal, Diksha, etc. They provided the students with facilities of sanitizer, an Oximeter, and running water in front of the school premises. Frequent communication was made with medical staff near CHC, Sarupathar. Since the stakeholders of the community are very much aware of their roles and responsibility for children and their wards to educate them in this Global pandemic and the school will involve them with the entire system. Schools provided drop boxes in various places such as the panchayat office, Namghar, club, etc. Teachers visited door-to-door students' houses. The schools also organized competition to make the students active in the class room activities after the COVID.